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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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9-24-1970

From/To: Jack Arvin (Chalk's reply filed first)

Jack Arvin

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**HARDING**  
U N I V E R S I T Y

September 24, 1970

C  
O  
P  
Y  
Mr. Jack Arvin  
West Berry Church of Christ  
2701 West Berry  
Fort Worth, Texas 76109

Dear Jack:

There is no way to tell you how encouraging your letter of September 16 was. I appreciated so much the insights you had gotten, even from the excerpts of my statements in Brother Patterson's editorial. I deeply regret the editorial occurred, both for the reflection that it cast on Brother Patterson, as well as on me.

Your understanding of the two loaded terms that I used was deeply appreciated. I now realize that those are words that many of our brethren did not understand and certainly had no context in which to appreciate them.

Thank you so much for passing on the compliment from Brother Barnett. I appreciate so much your friendship and especially the genuine encouragement your letter provided.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAX:lc

# West Berry church of christ

2701 West Berry / WA 6-7711 / FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76109

September 16, 1970

## Elders

John W. Barnett  
Roy D. Holland  
John J. Hosek  
Leonard A. Miller  
David P. Shore, Sr.  
Harold E. Tomme, Jr.

## Deacons

Guinn Arrington  
Bill Austin  
Jack Berry  
Buford Bourland  
Owen Cox  
Jack Craft  
Vernon Cross, Sr.  
Gene Davis  
Bill Francis  
Tom Freeman  
Robert Giles  
R. E. Hedgpeth  
Arthur Holley  
Paul Holley  
Houston Holt  
R. J. Knox  
Floyd Malone  
Marvin Miller  
Jimmy Murphy  
Jerry Myrick  
Charles Nichols, Jr.  
Jess Paslay  
Jim Sager  
Lee Roy Shulk  
Edgar Snelson  
Daryl Tucker  
Dee Wheeler  
Ted Wilhoit  
Elbert Zimmerman

## Evangelists

### Local

Jack Arvin  
Larry Calvin  
Jerry Fleming  
Adalberto Garcia

### International

Josue Carrillo  
Guadalajara, Mexico  
Eligio Gonzalez  
Matamoros, Mexico  
Epigmenio Zuniga  
Rio Grande, Mexico

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
Church of Christ  
Abilene, Texas

Dear John Allen,

Thank you for the letter and enclosures of the News-Reporter article and sermon manuscript. I have read them, Jerry Fleming and Carlos Storm have also. I am making sure that the elders all have the opportunity to read them.

At the time of the Journal editorial I wondered about several things not the least of which was Brother Patterson's use of ridicule. Even from the excerpts in the editorial I felt that I understood you to be saying: 1. there are souls in desperate need in our society, 2. the movie made the point in a way sermons cannot approach. 3. Christians must face these needs and our responsibility to them. 4. Many parts of the film were unacceptable to you personally. Your letter confirms these conclusions.

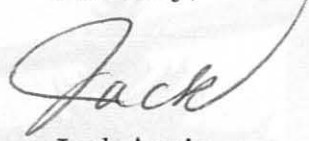
Two expressions you used in the interview ("redemptive" and "Christ-figure") will probably need explanation to most of our brotherhood. Most of our people will see no redemptive or Christ-type qualities about the characters. The terms are common to literary and social criticism. It is in this sense I am sure you used them.

Either Noble made no investigation to determine your actions subsequent to the N-R article or knowing of your statement the next Sunday, he left it out of his story. Either way this is irresponsible journalism.

Brother John Barnett said recently that he thought your sermon here "It's Great To Be A Christian" was the best he had ever heard on the subject. I heartily agree.

May God bless your work.

Sincerely,



Jack Arvin

JA/ec